# A

**Abstract**

*Predict:* Each object in Predict can have an abstract providing short comments on the object. An abstract can have up to 16 lines of up to 30 characters.
In earlier versions of Predict, an abstract was referred to as Comments or Short comments. The name was changed for reasons of compatibility with other Software AG products.

**Active help**

*Predict:* If parameter values needed to execute a function are missing, active help is given in the form of a selection window containing all possible values. This applies to all input fields marked with an asterisk.

**Active reference data**

*Predict:* See Xref Data.

**Active retrieval**

*Predict:* Active retrieval functions retrieve information from Xref data and from Predict documentation objects. Comparison of documentation and implementation of a system is possible.

**ActiveX component**

*Windows:* Standardized Microsoft interface to external programming components, for example, business logic or calculations. ActiveX components have no user interface.

**ActiveX control**

*Windows:* A standardized programming component with a user interface e.g. radio buttons or list boxes, which can be used in Natural dialogs. Natural can get a selection list of the ActiveX controls available from the registry. You can view the default settings in the Property pages using the Component Browser.

**Adabas**

Software AG's high-performance, multi-threaded,adaptable database management system for multiple platforms.

**Address space**

Area in which Natural runs.

**AIV = application-independent variable**

1. A Natural system command which lists all active AIVs. See system command AIV.
2. A Natural variable used to assign values across programs and libraries. See the section User-Defined Variables in the Natural Reference documentation and the DEFINE DATA statement in the Natural Statements documentation.

**ALF=access layer format**

*Predict:* Represents a predefined, database system independent format with which you can exchange data between Predict Case and Natural Engineering Workbench. All the data you wish to transfer with the Predict Coordinator must first be put in a transfer medium.

**AMODE = addressing mode**

The number of bits (24 or 31) of a virtual address used during program execution.

**Application**

A logical view of a collection of interconnected programming elements. Together, they form a functional unit which covers the business logic for a particular business problem. An application consists of a set of libraries and their Natural objects and/or sub-applications (business objects). The contents of a library (Natural objects, resources, etc.) can belong to different applications. Information concerning an application (the application description) is held in the development server file which is accessible from all platforms.

There are two types of application:

- *base applications* consist of one application on one platform, for example, a theater ticket booking system.
- *compound applications* consist of multiple base applications, for example, a theater administration application combining applications for booking tickets, billing customers and mailing customers with performance information. The base applications can be on multiple platforms.

**Application description**

A list of all the elements belonging to an application, stored in the development server file. The Database file (at present FDIC on the mainframe) in which application information is physically stored. See Development server file.

**Application description layer**

The code which handles access to the application description.

**Application wizard**

*Windows:* A tool for defining what belongs to a certain application. Dialog boxes guide the user through creating an application description for an existing application.

**Application workspace**

*Windows:* Used to view a visual representation of an application in a tree view. The application workspace shows all elements belonging to the current application.

**ASM = Authorized Services Manager**

Provides the following authorized operating system functions for use within Natural:

- propagating Natural buffer pool objects;
- writing system management facility (SMF) records;
- holding Natural session information in the Session Information Pool (SIP).

ASM provides functions via PC routines and runs in its own address space.

**Association**

*Predict:* Predict documentation objects can be linked using associations. Different types of associations are used to link objects of different types. Associations are unidirectional (child and parent association).

Additional association types can be defined by the data dictionary administrator using the Metadata Administration functions of Predict.

**Asterisk notation**

*Predict:* The wildcard character * (an asterisk) can be used to specify input parameters that address groups of values. For example, if datab* is entered as an ID, all IDs starting with the characters datab are addressed.

**Attribute**

*Predict:* Predict documentation objects have attributes describing the object. All attributes of specific object types are described in detail in the respective sections of the Predefined Object Types in Predict documentation.

**Automation object**

*Windows:* A program which can be used via an automation interface. For further information, see your Microsoft documentation.